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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Simone Has Fans Seeing Red

Gail Simone has established herself as one of comics' most popular writers, with a devoted readership that follows her on every project she undertakes. For years, the only place where readers could find Simone's byline was at DC—but that's changing this summer as she makes her Dynamite Comics debut, taking on one of the most popular female characters in comics history: Red Sonja.

For Simone, the opportunity to write ***Red Sonja*** was too good to pass up. "Red Sonja is one of the original female ass-kickers in comics—*of course* I would want to write her," Simone said. "Any reader who likes sex, blood, swordplay, sassiness, red hair, adventure, and monsters getting stabbed in the face should get this book."

Simone explained how the ***Red Sonja*** assignment came about. "*Nick Barrucci,* the publisher of Dynamite Entertainment, has contacted me several times in the past and made it clear he was hoping I would come aboard, but I've had an exclusive at another publisher for something like eight years," she explained.

"Sure enough, when my exclusive ended, Nick was the very first person to contact me about a writing gig. He essentially offered me pretty much any book I wanted, and his first suggestion was ***Red Sonja***, and I just said, 'Stop! That's the one—no point in going further.' It's Red Sonja, the original female barbarian buttkicker. She keeps her head high and her blade sharp. I want to write *that*!"

Is Simone a fan of the sword and sorcery genre, or is it the character of Sonja in particular who appeals to her? "*Huge* fan," Simone said. "I love the mannered Tolkien stuff, but I find the pulpier, lustier, more hot-blooded tales to be incredibly thrilling. I've mentioned this a lot, but I was always putting sword and sorcery elements in my superhero comics. What if Wonder Woman met Beowulf?

What if the Secret Six went to Skartaris? I *love* that. I would love to write a world like in the Frazetta paintings—that's a vibe I would love to capture."

While the Red Sonja we know from comics isn't truly a *Robert E. Howard* character (she's loosely based on Red Sonya from REH's "Shadow of the Vulture"), she was undoubtedly inspired by Howard's work. Does Simone intend to keep the Howardian elements in her version of ***Red Sonja?*** "Absolutely… it's true that the Red Sonja people are familiar with is a creation of the comics, but she seems absolutely inspired by Howard's remarkable heroines. I have been rereading his work, and there's no doubt he created some amazing female adventurers. He was, by all accounts, a bit of a proto-feminist long before such a thing was popular.

"There are definitely elements time has thankfully passed by, but I find the worlds he built absolutely astounding. You read his stories and you can smell the sweat and blood of the battlefield. It's very powerful.

"I want the comics character's attitude, but Howard's monsters and armies and landscapes."

What is Simone's take on Sonja? Is she a female Conan, or is there more to her than that? "Oh, *so* much more," Simone said. "Our Sonja isn't going to be quite so dour. She's not a jokester, but she drinks too much, she has a temper, she has a low nonsense tolerance—all of this stuff makes her really genuinely entertaining to watch. Our Sonja is the bull in the China shop.

"She's also more deeply compassionate than Conan… I love the Cimmerian, but Sonja is different, and that's a good thing."

Sonja has certainly changed over the years. She began as a sensibly dressed warrior woman way back in the Thomas/Windsor-Smith ***Conan*** days, an antisocial warrior-mercenary driven by her desires for loot, not by a hatred for enemies or for men. How'd she get on such a different track? "A lot of the female characters of the era were definitely influenced by various phases of the women's movement, but to me, rereading them, it's like seeing the message through a funhouse mirror," Simone said. "Many characters went through a bit of a man-hating phase, which I think is unfortunate.

"The stories are wonderfully told, but odd gender issues are common in lots of the books of the time. We may look back at the books of this era and say the same thing in a couple of decades.

"I don't see Sonja as a man-hater at all. She's a fun, lusty, cunning, uncompromising, sometimes bawdy character, quick with a sword, loyal to her friends, brutal to her enemies. She's fun. I love her."

Most of Sonja's adversaries have been men; will that change under Simone's tenure? "Her first adversary is a character we are all really excited about, a death dealer every bit Sonja's equal known as Dark Annisia, and she is a holy *terror*, honestly," Simone said.

To celebrate the series' new direction, ***Red Sonja #1*** will feature variant covers by some of the leading female artists in the industry. "I had this idea to ask the top female artists in the industry to do the covers, and Dynamite ran with it beyond my dreams," Simone said. "Not only did all the artists we asked immediately agree, they all confessed their secret love for Sonja. They *adore* her!

"Lots of the artists submitted multiple sketches because they couldn't stop, and many top names submitted sketches without even being asked, because they love Sonja so much and are dying to see this project.

"I'm thrilled about the female cover artists…it hit us that none of us could remember such a thing being done. So having so many top line artists drawing their hearts out on the covers, people like *Colleen Doran, Fiona Staples, Jenny Frison, Nicola Scott, Pia Guerra, Amanda Conner, Stephanie Buscema*, and so many more, it's amazing, a real dream come true for me, and the covers look *fantastic*. There's monsters, loincloths, wizards, treasure, pirates, plagues, war, lust, and triumph. It's what I write comics for— the reason I am in this business."

Simone will be joined by artist *Walter Geovani,* who has plenty of experience with Sonja, having illustrated her exploits for several years. Simone was asked her choice for artists, and she explained that "we all agreed on the great *Walter Geovani*, a tremendous artist. It's a true partnership, I can ask for a panel to have a subtle expression, he draws it, we throw ideas back and forth, he's a wonder. He has an eye for believability—the buckle on the shoe, the bolt on the door, he draws it. It's lovely."

Simone's enthusiasm for the relaunched ***Red Sonja*** is unabashed and quite genuine. "It's a new Sonja, she's got a new attitude, the art is gorgeous—I could not be happier. Can't *wait* for the readers to see this stuff!"

Red Sonja #1, a #3.99 comic by *Gail Simone & Walter Geovani* slated for July 3rd release, will feature cover art by *Nicola Scott, Amanda Conner, Fiona Staples, Jenny Frison,* and *Colleen Doran,* with a special exclusive subscription variant cover by *Stephanie Buscema.*

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

CSNsider

•Sad news, Silver Age fans: DC has announced that their ***Justice League Chronicles Volume 1 TP*** has been cancelled—and there are no plans for resolicitation!

•Good news for Valiant collectors: are partnering to produce Valiant Universe statues, beginning with a 2014-release ***X-O Manowar Deluxe Edition Statue,*** based on *Marko Djurdjevic's* cover art for ***X-O Manowar #12.***

•Dynamic Forces has also reached an agreement with Valiant to produce lithographs, statues, busts, posters, and more. The first Dynamic Forces product will be an ***X-O Manowar*** lithograph featuring the art of *Marko Djurdjevic.* "Dynamic Forces is one of the leading licensors in comics and with good reason. They're passionate, knowledgeable and experienced, and we look forward to a fruitful partnership," Valiant CEO and Chief Creative Officer *Dinesh Shamdasani* said.

•*Jeff Smith's* **RASL** will be collected in a hefty 472-page hardcover in September. ***RASL*** will feature all fifteen issues of the series.

•Writer *James Latour* has confirmed that ***Winter Soldier*** has been cancelled with #19.

Back to Press

•***Age of Ultron #4 2nd Printing*** (FEB138600), featuring a variant cover by *Bryan Hitch,* in stores 5/22.

•***All-New X-Men #10 2nd Printing*** (FEB138601), featuring a variant cover by *Stuart Immonen,* in stores 5/22.

•***East of West #1 3rd Printing*** (MAR138075), in stores 5/15.

•***Injustice: Gods Among Us #1 3rd Printing*** (FEB138584), featuring a videogame art cover, in stores 5/8.

•***Sex #2 2nd Printing*** (FEB138644), in stores 5/8.

•***Superior Spider-Man #1 4th Printing*** (FEB138598), featuring a variant cover by *Ryan Stegman,* in stores 5/15.

•***Superior Spider-Man #3 3rd Printing*** (FEB138599), featuring a variant cover by *Ryan Stegman,* in stores 5/15.

Coming Comics—DC in July

Trinity War is declared this summer, beginning in ***Justice League #22*** by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, &Joe Prado.* The death of a hero ignites a violent war among the Justice Leagues! It's League vs. League vs. League as an impending darkness approaches the DC Universe. But the truth behind it all will lead to an evil that threatens every hero on the planet. And what does the Secret Society of Super-Villains have to with this?

The story continues into ***Justice League of America #6*** by *Geoff Johns, Jeff Lemire, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy* as one hero is arrested and another goes rogue. Who is responsible for the evil that has infected the League? And who is the true killer? Only the Question knows the answer...

Jeff Lemire, Ray Fawkes, & Mikel Janin present the third chapter of ***Trinity War*** in ***Justice League Dark #22*** as a member of the Justice League defects to Justice League Dark. But what does Constantine know about a murder that he isn't telling? And what dark secret does one of the Leaguers hold that could turn the tide of this Justice League War?

Trinity War tie-in titles include ***Trinity of Sin: Pandora #2*** by *Ray Fawkes, Daniel Sampere, & Vicente Cifuentes,* which finds Pandora standing along against the Secret Society of Super-Villains; ***Constantine #5*** by *Ray Fawkes & Renato Guedes,* in which Constantine takes a keen interest in Billy Batson's power of Shazam; and ***Trinity of Sin: The Phantom Stranger #10*** by *J.M. DeMatteis & Fernando Blanco,* in which the Stranger is forced to make the most difficult choice he's faced in thousands of years walking in the wilderness.

A group of warriors from space come to Earth in search of their new king in ***Action Comics #22*** by *Scott Lobdell, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt*—and they've set their sites on Superman to lead them!

After being locked in Arkham Asylum, Jonah Hex goes on the run in ***All Star Western #22*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Moritat*—and he has a partner whose family he knows all too well from his days with Amadeus Arkham.

In ***Animal Man #22*** by *Jeff Lemire, Steve Pugh, & Francis Portela,* Animal Man suddenly finds himself the most famous hero in the world, which is not helping matters in the Baker household—or stopping the horrifying debut of The Splinterfolk!

Still reeling from the shocking death of his son, Buddy Baker is taking his grief out on the world around him in ***Animal Man Annual #2*** by *Jeff Lemire & Travel Foreman.*

Following the recent massive trauma she's suffered, Barbara Gordon tries to move on with her life—without Batgirl—in ***Batgirl #22*** by *Gail Simone, Fernando Pasarin, & Jonathan Glapion.*

The second chapter of *Scott Snyder, Greg Capullo, & Danny Miki's* "Zero Year" in ***Batman #22*** delves into Bruce Wayne's past with the Red Hood Gang and his run-ins with aspiring District Attorney Harvey Dent! And in the backup story, a secret moment from Bruce's training abroad is revealed for the first time!

The stunning pencil art of *Greg Capullo* is presented in ***Batman: Year Zero: The Director's Cut #1,*** which also includes *Scott Snyder's* script for ***Batman #21.***

In ***Batman Annual #2,*** a "Zero Year" tie-in tale by *Scott Snyder & Aaron Lopresti,* Bruce Wayne's first year as the Dark Knight has just barely begun...and already dangerous elements are coalescing, leading Bruce toward his final destiny.

In ***Batman & Catwoman #22*** by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, Mick Gray, & J. Calafiore,* Bruce Wayne continues to grind through his grief over the death of Damian—but is Catwoman here to help Batman or take advantage of his vulnerable state?

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SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

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The origin of Clayface is revealed in *Gregg Hurwitz & Alex Maleev's* ***Batman: The Dark Knight #22***—and a new mystery is introduced!

Since no one can properly follow up on *Grant Morrison's* incomparable work on ***Batman, Incorporated,*** DC is ending the series with Morrison & *Chris Burnham's* final issue, ***Batman, Incorporated #13.*** And what a finale it is: in this issue, Batman saves the world... and loses everything.

Batman and Superman travel to Earth 2, where they find familiar heroes who are trying to kill them, in ***Batman/Superman #2*** by *Greg Pak & Jae Lee.*

Batwing returns to Gotham City ib ***Batwing #22*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, Eduardo Pansica, & Julio Ferreira,* unaware that his actions in Africa have set in motion a dangerous plan of retaliation that will not only target him personally, but also Wayne Enterprises!

In ***Batwoman #22*** by *JH Williams III, W. Haden Blackman, & Trevor McCarthy,* Batwoman discovers that the D.E.O. are bringing in Gotham City's most dangerous villains for questioning. Their real target? Batman!

Betrayed by one of their own and homeless, the last thing the Birds need is another shock. But that's just what they get in ***Birds of Prey #22*** by *Christy Marx, Romano Molenaar, & Jonathan Glapion.*

What lies beneath the streets of Gotham City? Catwoman is about to find out in ***Catwoman #22*** by *Ann Nocenti, Rafa Sandoval, & Jordi Tarragona.*

While trying to protect the Holy Grail, the Demon Knights are attacked by Vandal Savage and an army of giants in ***Demon Knights #22*** by *Robert Venditti, Chad Hardin, & Wayne Faucher.*

John Layman & Jason Fabok introduce The Wrath in ***Detective Comics #22.*** In Gotham City, he's the anti-Batman, and the body count is about to shoot through the roof!

At a time when police are being targeted for assassination, Gotham's Finest also face a threat from within, as a shape-changing identity thief has infiltrated the GCPD and threatens to destroy it from within in ***Detective Comics Annual #2*** by *John Layman, Scot Eaton, & Jaime Mendoza.*

With a gang of strange new allies, Nelson and Roxie jump through reality after reality on a quest to learn the origins of the dials in ***Dial H #14*** by *China Mieville, Alberto Ponticelli, & Dan Green.*

Green Lantern, The Flash and Doctor Fate attack Steppenwolf head on in ***Earth 2 #14*** by *James Robinson, Nicola Scott, & Trevor Scott*— with the future of Earth 2 hanging in the balance!

The Flash comes face to face with the Reverse Flash for the first time in ***The Flash #22*** by *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato.*

Brian Buccellato & Sami Basri chronicle the first meeting of the Flash and Green Lantern in ***The Flash Annual #2,*** as a case they teamed up to solve years ago rears its head again in the present!

Count Vertigo makes his New 52 debut in ***Green Arrow #22*** by *Jeff Lemire & Andrea Sorrentino.* And just when Ollie thinks he's got it all figured out, another piece of his family mystery emerges...only this one is still breathing!

In ***Green Lantern #22*** by *Robert Venditti, Billy Tan, & Richard Friend,* Larfleeze arrives on Oa to find the Corps at their most desperate, while Hal is forced to throw new Green Lantern recruits into a battle they might not win!

John Stewart is the only Lantern who knows about a terrible threat coming for the universe...but if he makes it back to Oa, will he choose to serve in an unrecognizable Corps made up of the strangest new recruits ever to wield a ring? Find out in ***Green Lantern Corps #22*** by *Robert Venditti, Van Jensen, & Bernard Chang.*

Witness the beginnings of the next major Green Lantern villain in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #22*** by *Justin Jordan, Brad Walker,*

& Drew Hennessy. Something terrible has emerged from the Anomaly at the edge of the universe—and it's going to tear Kyle Rayner apart!

The richest teens in the world are dealing with some serious buyers' remorse when the Commodore's battle armor causes him tons of trouble in ***The Green Team: Teen Trillionaires #3*** by *Art Baltazar, Franco, & Ig Guara.* And not even a trillionaire can afford the trouble that the Commodore's new hired muscle, Deathstroke, brings with him!

Vibe finds himself chased by bounty hunters with the guns of A.R.G.U.S. aimed at his head in ***Justice League of America's Vibe #6*** by *Sterling Gates, Pete Woods, & Sean Parsons.*

In ***Katana #6*** by *Ann Nocenti & Alex Sanchez,* Katana is reunited with her infamous sword, Soultaker—and she's ready to send retake all the spirits that escaped her blade!

Larfleeze faces the celestial being known as the "Lord of the Hunt" in ***Larfleeze #22*** by *Keith Giffen, JM DeMatteis, & Scott Kolins.*

With the Legion on the edge of defeat in *Paul Levitz & Jeff Johnson's* ***Legion of Super-Heroes #22,*** they must look to the past for the sake of their future! In this stunning conclusion of the Fatal Five epic, you won't believe what the new face of tomorrow looks like!

The Movement takes on the entire police department in an attempt to rescue one of their own in ***The Movement #3*** by *Gail Simone & Freddie Williams II.*

Nightwing takes on Ghostwalker in ***Nightwing #22*** by *Kyle Higgins, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund,* and the Prankster finds a surprising ally!

As the fate of Jason Todd remains unclear, Starfire faces off against Essence to try and tip the scales—but in which direction? Find out in ***Red Hood and the Outlaws #22*** by *James Tynion IV & Julius Gopez.*

Lobo joins StormWatch in ***Stormwatch #22*** by *Jim Starlin, Yvel Guichet, & LeBeau Underwood.* How can the universe survive a battle between Lobo and Apollo?

An anarchist group has a monstrous plan to rewire the brains of the American public, starting in Las Vegas! So it's up to Amanda Waller's team to shut them down in ***Suicide Squad #22*** by *Ales Kot & Patrick Zircher*—but a surprise new squad member with a grudge against Deadshot threatens to wreck everything!

Psycho and the Teen of Steel continue to track down what they believe are H.I.V.E. psi operatives, with the help of Lois Lane—who Superboy feels a bond to that Psycho isn't revealing. And Kon's double may complicate things even more in ***Superboy #22*** by *Justin Jordan, RB Silva, & Rob Lean.*

Kara may have found a home away from Earth in ***Supergirl #22*** by *Michael Alan Nelson & Mahmud Asrar,* but it's Superboy who'll have to pay the price for that discovery!

Confronted with a Psi War, Superman falls before one of its leaders, the H.I.V.E. queen, in ***Superman #22*** by *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort.*

What repercussions lurk beneath the surface from Brainiac's first attack—and how does it all set the stage for the battle of Metropolis? Find out in ***Superman Annual #2*** by *Scott Lobdell, Frank Hannah, & Pascale Alixe.*

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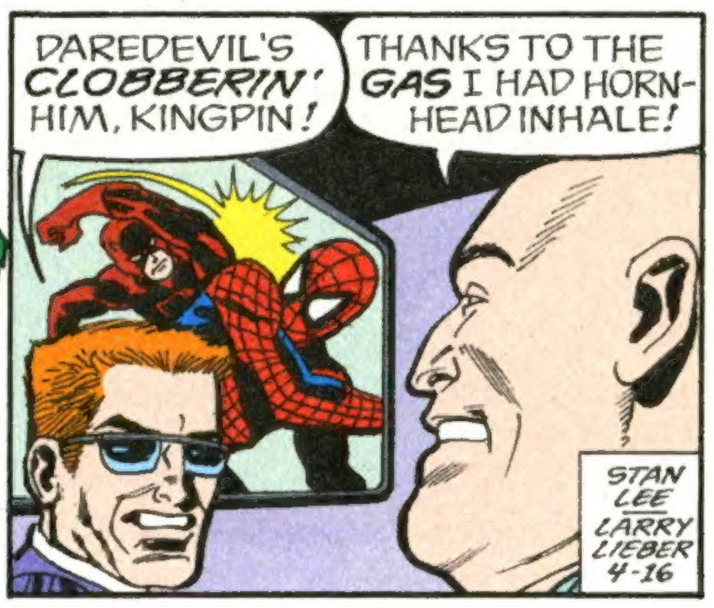

The technological terrorists called Ascension are growing bolder with every attack, creating problems that require both Superman and Batman to solve, in ***Superman Unchained #2*** by *Scott Snyder, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams.* But the mystery that's really got them both worried is the unknown figure that's been shadowing Superman!

Want to witness the beauty of *Jim Lee's* art without any layers of coloring? Then you're going to want ***Superman Unchained Director's Cut #1,*** which presents the entire first issue shot from *Jim Lee's* pencil art, complete with *Scott Snyder's* full script.

The mysterious Seeder has given a desperate town in Scotland an astonishing gift: a tree that bears whiskey like fruit! It's a disturbance in the natural order that draws the Swamp Thing's attention—trouble is, it's caught the eye of John Constantine as well, as you'll see in ***Swamp Thing #22*** by *Charles Soule & Kano.*

Can Calvin escape Santa Prisca, the most dangerous island on the planet? Or will he fall at the hands of its ruler, Bane? *James Tynion IV & Miguel Sepulveda* answer those questions in ***Talon #10.***

Trigon triumphs over the Teen Titans in ***Teen Titans #22*** by *Scott Lobdell, Eddy Barrows, & Eber Ferreira,* as he begins to turn Manhattan into a staging ground for a demonic takeover of the planet.

When the Hunted fight back against their persecutors, a connection between Blue Beetle and Apokolips sparks a riot in ***Threshold #7*** by *Keith Giffen & Tom Raney.*

Wonder Woman makes her first visit to Orion's homeworld in ***Wonder Woman #22*** by *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang,* bringing her face to face with the Highfather as she sees the strange hold he has over his uncontrollable son.

Desaad goes in for the kill in *Paul Levitz & Robson Rocha's* ***Worlds' Finest #14*** as Power Girl and Huntress run out of options against a monster from Apokolips!

Jeff Parker & Jonathan Case take readers back to the bygone era of the batusi and camp crimefighters with ***Batman '66 #1,*** the debut issue of a new series that reimagines the classic Batman TV series in comics form for the first time! These all-new stories portray The Caped Crusader, The Boy Wonder and their fiendish rogues gallery just the way viewers remember them from the classic *Adam West-Burt Ward* television series. In this first adventure, The Riddler's out to steal some valuable artwork from under the noses of Gotham's police. But Batman gets help from an unlikely source: a certain femme fatale dressed in feline finery!

What happened between Laurel and Tommy while Oliver was presumed dead? What kind of tactics do the SCPD use in their ongoing investigation of the Starling City vigilante? Find out in ***Arrow #9*** by *Mark Guggenheim, Mike Grell,* and others.

Matt Kindt & Stephen Segovia do the honors in ***Adventures of Superman #3*** as they present a day in the life of the world's greatest superhero.

When an all-new Batgirl pops up in Neo-Gotham, it's up to former Commissioner Barbara Gordon to decide if she's friend or foe in ***Batman Beyond Unlimited #18.***

Lois Lane steps into the spotlight in ***Smallville Season 11 Special #2*** by *Bryan Q. Miller & Cat Staggs.*

Green Lantern: The Animated Series comes to an end with #14 as Hal and Razer shrink themselves to microscopic size to confront Kilg%re.

DC collected editions (advance solicited for August and September release) include:

- ***Batman: The Court of Owls Book & Mask Set,*** packaging ***The Court of Owls TP*** and a PVC Owl mask with white elastic band.
- ***Batman Volume 3: Death of the Family HC,*** collecting ***Batman #s 13-17,*** complete with an acetate overlay dust jacket that replicates the "Death of the Family" die-cut cover motif.
- ***Batman: Arkham Unhinged Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Arkham Unhinged #s 1-5.***
- ***Batwoman Volume 3: World's Finest HC,*** collecting ***Batwoman #s 12-17 & 0.***
- ***Captain Atom Volume 2: Genesis TP,*** collecting ***Captain Atom #s 0 & 7-12.***
- ***DC Universe Presents Vandal Savage TP,*** collecting ***DCU Presents #s 0 & 9-12.***
- ***Disturbingly Awful Mad TP,*** featuring Spy Vs Spy, *Sergio Aragones* zaniness, and more.
- ***Flash Volume 1: Move Forward TP,*** collecting ***Flash #s 1-8.***
- ***Green Lantern: Rise of the Third Army HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 13-16, Green Lantern Corps #s 13-16 & Annual #1, Red Lanterns #s 13-16,*** and ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #s 13-16.***
- ***Green Lantern: Sector 2814 Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 182-183 & 185-189.***
- ***Jack Kirby's OMAC TP,*** collecting ***OMAC #s 1-8.***
- ***Justice League Volume 3: Throne of Atlantis HC,*** collecting ***Justice League #s 13-17*** and ***Aquaman #s 15-16.***
- ***Legends of the Dark Knight: Jim Aparo Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Brave & Bold #s 123-145 & 147-151.***
- ***Legion Lost Volume 2: The Culling TP,*** collecting ***Legion Lost #s 0 & 8-16.***
- ***Nightwing: Old Friends, New Enemies TP,*** collecting stories from ***Secret Origins #13*** and ***Action Comics Weekly #s 613-618 & 627-634.***
- ***Shazam! Volume 1 HC,*** collecting the *Geoff Johns-Gary Frank* tales from ***Justice League #s 7-11, 0, 14-16, & 18-21.***
- ***Smallville Season 11 Volume 2: Detective TP,*** collecting ***Smallville Season 11 #s 5-8.***
- ***Sword of sorcery Volume 1: Amethyst TP,*** collecting tales from ***Sword of Sorcery #s 0-8.***
- ***Talon Volume 1: Scourge of the Owls TP,*** collecting ***Talon #s 0-7.***
- ***Wonder Woman Volume 3: Iron HC,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman #s 0 & 13-18.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in July

It started small: temporary gravity failures, time reversal loops, entropy reversals. With much fanfare a new government agency was formed with a mandate "to prevent and protect." Its official title: The Federal Bureau of

SOMEONE'S TAKEN CONTROL OF DAREDEVIL—MAKING HIM ATTACK ME!
CAN'T GIVE HIM A SPIDER-POWERED PUNCH—OR HE'LL BE HISTORY!
STAN LEE / LARRY LIEBER 4-17

I DON'T WANNA HURT HIM—
SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO!
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LOOK! SPIDER-MAN'S RUNNING AWAY!
NOOO! HE MUSTN'T ESCAPE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-18
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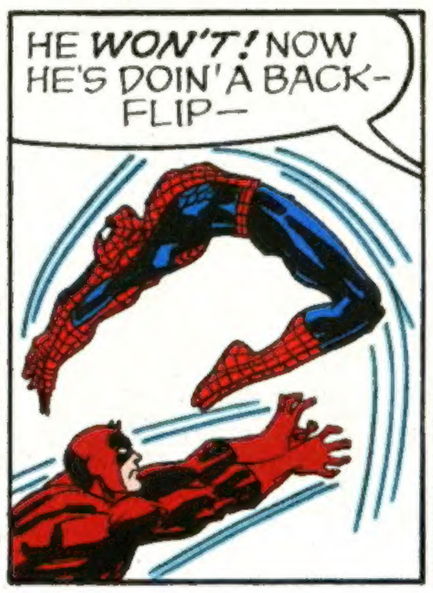
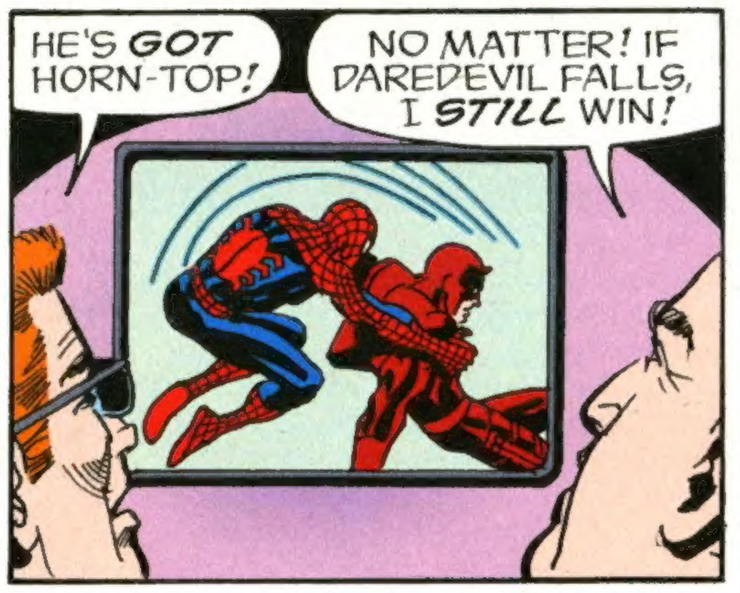




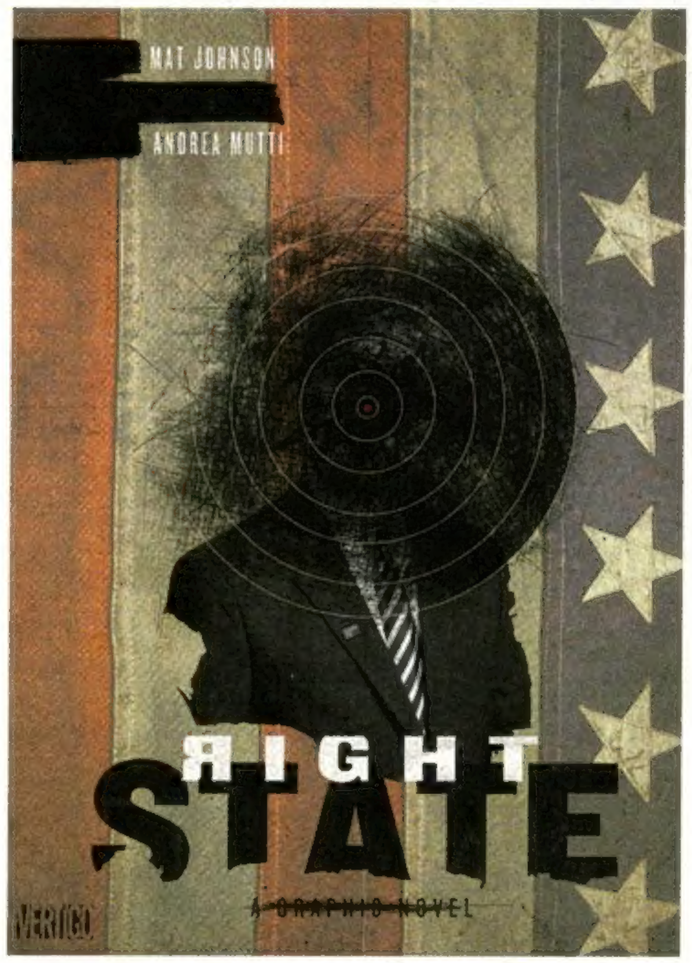
Physics. Humans, if nothing else, adapt to the changing parameters of their existence. What was extraordinary soon became ordinary, a part of people's daily lives. They move on and do what people have always done: survive. But even that new status quo is now under threat. Things are getting worse, and it falls to Special Agent Adam Hardy and his FBP team to figure out what's going on, before it's too late in ***Collider #1*** by *Simon Oliver & Robbi Rodriguez.*

Peter Hogan, Chris Sprouse, & Karl Story take readers back to the world of Tom Strong in ***Tom Strong & the Planet of Peril #1.*** Too bad he's powerless! The lives of his daughter Tesla and her unborn child both hang in the balance, and there's nothing Tom can do to save them…until he remembers the one thing that just might. To find it, he and Val Var Garm must journey to the far side of the galaxy, and the mysterious world known as Terra Obscura.

Mike Carey, Peter Gross, Kurt Huggins, & Zelda Devon explore the world of the Tommy Taylor novels in the original graphic novel ***The Unwritten: Tommy Taylor & the Ship That Sank Twice HC.*** Twenty-five years ago Tom's father, Wilson Taylor, devised his subversive literary masterpiece. Now the blueprint of how a father gave his son vast power in order to accomplish a greater scheme is revealed. Partly told through Wilson's own journal entries, juxtaposed with Tommy's swashbuckling deep sea adventures with his trusty companions Peter and Sue, the story is at once a prequel and a parallel story to the ongoing series.

Bill Willingham, Mark Buckingham, & Steve Leialoha kick off the brand-new storyline "Camelot" in ***Fables 3131*** as Rose Red finally and formally takes on the mantle of Paladin of Hope to heroically rally the Fables in the tragic aftermath of "Snow White." Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for August and September release) include:

- ***Hellblazer Volume 6: Bloodlines New Edition TP,*** collecting ***Hellblazer #s 47-61.***
- ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Omnibus TP,*** a 416-page trade paperback collecting ***LoEG Vols 1 & 2*** in a single edition.
- ***Right State,*** a softcover edition of the graphic novel by *Mat Johnson & Andrea Mutti.*



- ***Saucer Country Vol 2: The Reticulan Candidate TP,*** collecting ***Saucer Country #s 7-14.***

Coming in September and October from DC Collectibles

Jim Lee's famous cover for ***Justice League #12,*** depicting a passionate exchange between Superman and Wonder Woman, is captured in three dimensions by *Tim Bruckner* in the ***Superman & Wonder Woman: "The Kiss" Statue.***

Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman are presented in metallic paints (and with a new Wonder Woman head sculpt) in the ***DC Comics—The New 52 Trinity War Box Set.***

The New 52 Captain Cold is presented in all his chilling glory in the ***DC Comics Super-Villains: Captain Cold Action Figure.***

The ***Batman: Arkham City*** videogame is the inspiration for a pair of collectibles: the ***Batman: Arkham City Batman Statue,*** sculpted by *Dave Cortes,* and the ***Batman: Arkham City Solomon Grundy Deluxe Action Figure,*** a massive figure that stands over 13" tall and includes a removable heart and chest.

The Bombshells line, inspired by the pinup girls of the 1940s and 1950s, continues with the ***DC Comics Bombshells: Poison Ivy Statue,*** designed by *Ant Lucia* and sculpted by *Tim Miller.*

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COVER STORY

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BATMAN '66 #1
DC Comics
One hundred. Percent. West. Put on our go-go boots and get ready to "Batusi" back to the Swingin' Sixties as DC Comics re-imagines the classic 1966 Batman TV series in comics form for the very first time!

SATELLITE SAM #1
Image Comics
Matt Fraction and Howard Chaykin take us back to the early days of Television, as the star of the Satellite Sam TV show is found dead in a seedy flophouse. The cops say "natural causes", but the victim's son thinks otherwise… in this sexy noir mystery.

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The Girl of Steel rockets out of the pages of her monthly comic book series and into your home with the ***DC Comics: Cover Girls Supergirl Statue,*** designed by *Stanley "Artgerm" Lau* and sculpted by *Jack Mathews.*

Sculptor *Jonathan Matthews* brings *Jae Lee's* ***Before Watchmen*** art into the third dimension with the ***Before Watchmen: Ozymandias Statue.***

The creators of ***Wallace & Gromit*** bring their quirky sense of design to the DC Nation with their ***DC Nation: Aardman Action Figure Five-Pack.***

Pit DC's mightiest heroes against their most malevolent enemies with the ***Justice League Chess Set,*** sculpted by *Gentle Giant Studios* and featuring intricately sculpted resin game pieces of Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, The Flash, Lex Luthor, Black Manta, The Joker, Cheetah, Sinestro and Reverse Flash that capture their New 52 look. The set comes complete with a high-quality wood board with metal trim.

Greg Capullo's rendition of the Clown Prince of Crime from "Death of the Family" is the inspiration for the ***Batman Black & White: The Joker Statue by Greg Capullo,*** sculpted by *Jonathan Matthews.* At the same time, DC is offering the ***Batman: Black & White Batman Statue by Greg Capullo,*** also sculpted by Matthews.

The ***Batman Vs Killer Croc Statue (Second Edition)*** features a new casting of the sold-out statue, complete with an alternate paint deco on Batman's costume to match his New 52 look.

The Man of Steel flies onto your display shelf thanks to the ***Superman: The Man of Steel Statue by Frank Quitely,*** sculpted by *Mat Brouillard.*

DC offers a pair of figures in their ***DC Comics Super-Villains Action Figure*** line in October with the ***Black Manta*** and ***Joker Action Figures.***

From the pages of ***Batman: Hush*** comes the ***Hush: Joker, Harley Quinn, & Stealth Batman Action Figure Three-Pack*** and the ***Hush: Scarecrow, Nightwing, & Poison Ivy Action Figure Three-Pack,*** both based on the art of *Jim Lee.*

The 1:1 scale replica power battery series continues with the ***1:1 Scale Orange Lantern Power Battery & Ring Prop Replica.*** This Orange Lantern Power battery lights up when activated by its ring!

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in July

Angel and Faith will need all the help they can get when it comes to stopping this season's ubervillains from unleashing a magic-fueled plague on the earth in ***Angel & Faith #24*** by *Christos Gage & Rebekah Isaacs.* Enter an archmage, a former Watcher, and two socialites who've dabbled in magic... Will it be enough?

Nick and Tree have smoked opium with Genghis Khan, had orgies in Michelangelo's studio, and even fronted a death metal band. But after a century of friendship, these inseparable vampire buddies are on the verge of splitting up in ***Blood Brothers #1*** by *Mike Gagerman, Andrew waller, & Evan Shaner.* Then an apocalypse-obsessed villain plotting an end to humanity enters the picture...

In ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 9 #23*** by *Andrew Chambliss, Georges Jeanty, & Karl Story,* Willow, Xander, and Buffy reunite to save Dawn, and thus begins a journey that reveals betrayal amongst the ranks as they descend into the mysterious Deeper Well, former home of Illyria and many powerful Old Ones.

Straight from the glory of Comics' Greatest World, Frank "Titan" Wells, Amazing Grace and the Agents of Change return in ***Catalyst Comix #1*** by *Joe Casey, Dan McDaid, Ulises Farinas, & Paul Maybury.* But you've never seen them like this! Superhero comics get a back-alley facelift as these very different champions confront cosmic threats and personal demons—and it all starts at the end of the world as we know it!

In the forties, he was an American hero, a daredevil fighter pilot, a technological genius . . . a superhero. But since he rifled out of the Bermuda Triangle into the present day, Captain Midnight doesn't know what or who to trust! On the run from the US government after fleeing custody, Captain Midnight finds himself labeled a security risk in ***Captain Midnight #1*** by *Joshua Williamson & Fernando Dagnino.*

Paul Sammon presents an in-depth tour through the history of fantasy's greatest hero in ***Conan the Phenomenon TP,*** which covers everything from the earliest prose pieces of *Robert E. Howard,* to Frazetta's explosive artwork, through the Schwarzenegger film, and into the rebirth of the character at Dark Horse Comics.

•***Criminal Macabre: Final Night—The 30 Days of Night Crossover TP,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries.

David Lapham writes and illustrates the story of a group of elementary school kids tasked with keeping their town safe from an unknown horror in ***Dark Horse Presents #26.*** This issue also features Trekker, Nexus, Buffy, and more.

Landy Walker, Troy Nixey, Paul Chadwick, & Jonathan Case present original tidbits of twisted horror in ***Eerie Comics #3.***

Dusty Keztchemal is a pathetic coward who failed the entire planet; now the only way he can make a living is by getting punched in the face for money. But when a beautiful stranger wanders into his saloon looking for help, Dusty thinks he can conjure up the man he once was—the greatest monster trainer in the world! See him in action in ***Gamma,*** a oneshot by *Ulises Farinas & Erick Freitas.*

Tim Truman & Tomas Giorello continue their adaptation of *Robert E. Howard's* classic in ***King Conan: The Hour of the Dragon #3.*** Conan seeks to reclaim his crown, but he'll have to defeat an army backed by an evil wizard first!

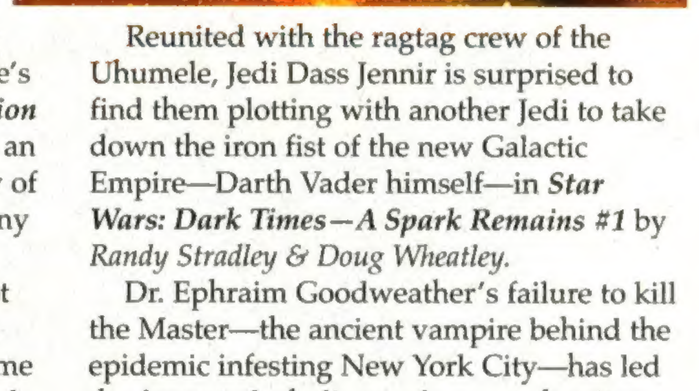
A series of brutal Chinatown murders sets off a manhunt for an Imperial Japanese agent even the Tong are afraid to kill. The Crimson Lotus, first introduced in ***BPRD.: The Dead*** in 2005, finally stands revealed in ***Lobster Johnson: A Scent of Lotus #1*** by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Sebastian Fiumara.*

Mass Effect 2 & 3 lead writer *Mac Walters* is the writer of ***Mass Effect: Foundation #1,*** the kickoff issue of a new ongoing series set in the world of BioWare's science fiction epic! ***Mass Effect: Foundation*** starts with a bang, introducing readers to an enigmatic "agent" and revealing the story of her time spent on the violent mining colony of Themis.

Matt Kindt kicks off a series of one-shot stories beginning with ***Mind MGMT #13,*** which reveals how sleeper agent The Home Maker will maintain her cover when Mind Management invades suburbia?

Reporter Katie Shah's exposés of the corruption of the English ruling class put her in the crosshairs of powerful men on a good day. *Alex de Campi's* ***Smoke and Ashes*** (illustrated by *Igor Kordey, Carla Speed McNeil, Bill Sienkiewicz, Richard Pace, Colleen Doran, and Dan McDaid,* and available in both paperback and limited edition hardcover) tells the stories of the bad days, as she and assassin Rupert Cain become targets of a sinister cabal bent on controlling the nation's oil and of a psychotic intelligence that has uploaded itself onto the Internet!

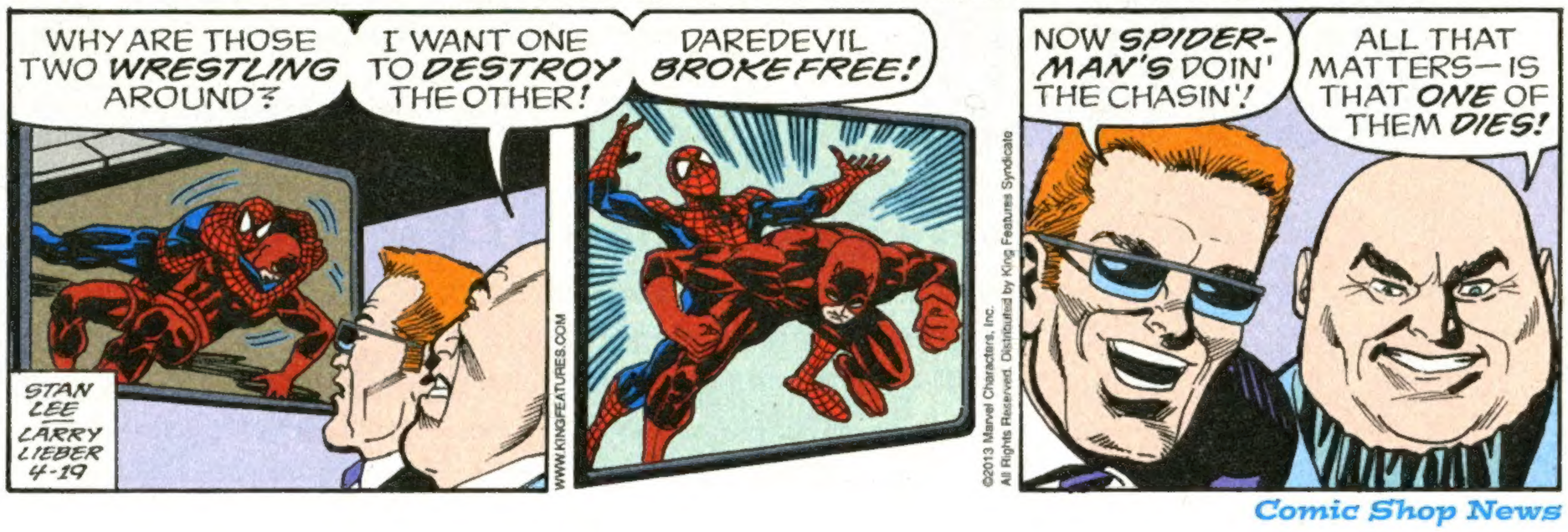
Princess Leia takes the Rebels' secret mission to the next level in *Brian Wood, Ryan Kelly, & Dan Parsons'* ***Star Wars #7,*** which kicks off the second story arc in the ongoing series. Playing it safe has gotten them nowhere, and they are running out of resources and time. What's the fastest way to get inside info on the Empire? Have your top pilots get themselves captured!



Reunited with the ragtag crew of the Uhumele, Jedi Dass Jennir is surprised to find them plotting with another Jedi to take down the iron fist of the new Galactic Empire—Darth Vader himself—in ***Star Wars: Dark Times—A Spark Remains #1*** by *Randy Stradley & Doug Wheatley.*

Dr. Ephraim Goodweather's failure to kill the Master—the ancient vampire behind the epidemic infesting New York City—has led the former alcoholic to relapse as the city burns around him. It's the end of the world, but Eph still has to protect his son Zack from his bloodthirsty vampire mother in ***The Strain: The Fall #1*** by *David Lapham & Mike Huddleston.*

Yoe Studios' syroco-style statue line continues with ***Marvel Classic Character: X-***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ALL THAT MATTERS—IS THAT ONE OF THEM DIES!

Men #3—Marvel Girl, limited to 950 copies and packaged in its own tin box with a pin-back button and character booklet.

Dark Horse collected volumes (advance solicited for August and September release) include:

- ***Adventures into the Unknown Archives Volume 3 HC,*** collecting ***Adventures into the Unknown #s 9-12.***
- ***Angel & Faith Volume 4: Death and Consequences TP,*** collecting ***Angel & Faith #s 16-20.***
- ***BPRD: 1948 TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.
- ***The Best of Milligan & McCarthy HC,*** a 264-page volume collecting highlights from 20 years of comics creativity, including work from ***Vanguard Illustrated, Strange Days, 2000 AD,*** and more.
- ***Eerie Archives Volume 14 HC,*** collecting ***Eerie #s 65-69.***
- ***Korak, Son of Tarzan Volume 2 HC,*** collecting *Gaylor DuBois & Russ Manning's* ***Korak, Son of Tarzan #s 7-11 & 21,*** completing Manning's run on the series.

- ***Sin Titulo HC,*** a 168-page collection of the complete webcomic by *Cameron Stewart.*
- ***Star Wars Volume 1: In the Shadow of Yavin TP,*** collecting ***Star Wars #s 1-6*** and ***Free Comic Book Day 2013.***
- ***Star Wars: Dark Times Volume 6—Fire Carrier TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.
- ***Star Wars: Legacy Book 2 HC,*** a 424-page compendium of ***Star Wars: Legacy*** adventures by *John Ostrander, Jan Duursema,* and others.

Coming Comics—Valiant in July

Once upon a time, Eric and Woody Henderson were inseparable. Adopted brothers. Best friends. Brilliant minds. Years later, they are estranged siblings, petty rivals, and washed-up failures. But when their father's murder leads them into the throes of a life-altering scientific accident, Eric and Woody will find themselves with a whole new purpose – and a perfectly legitimate reason to wear costumes and fight crime—in ***Quantum & Woody #1*** by *James Asmus & Tom Fowler.*

Joshua Dysart, Duane Swierczynski, & Clayton Henry present the final faceoff in ***Harbinger Wars #4.*** HARD Corps vs. Bloodshot vs. Toyo Harada vs. Peter and the Renegades! Who will be left standing amidst the wreckage once called Las Vegas?

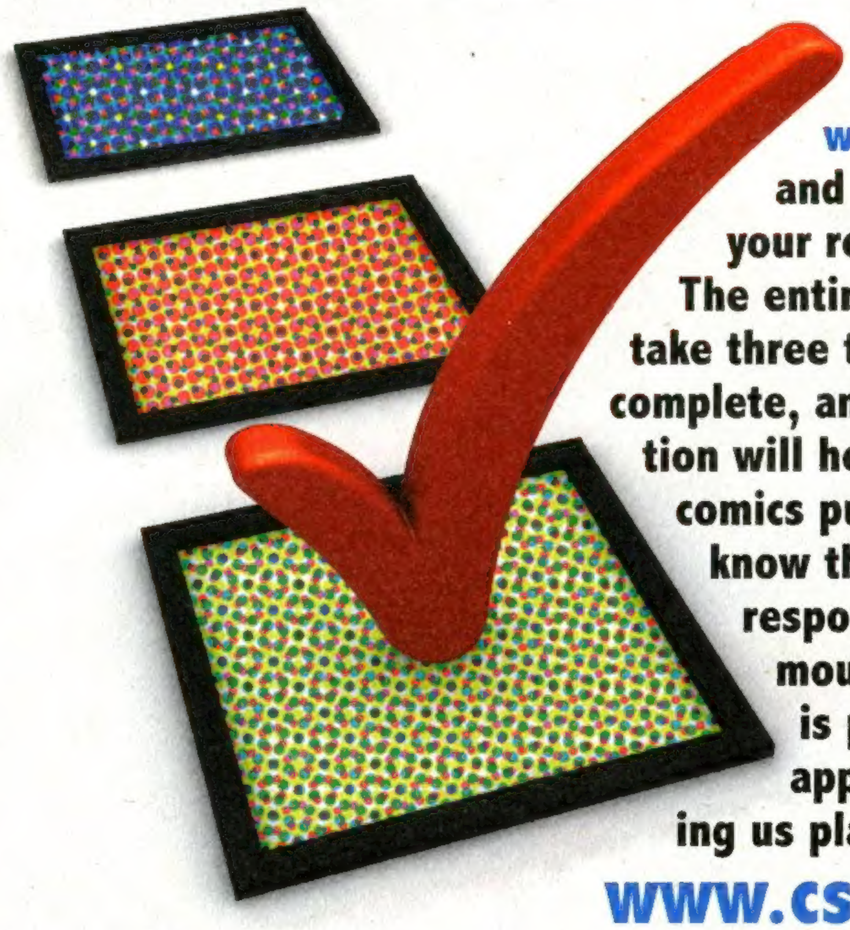
As the Harbinger Wars reach their boiling point, Peter and his team must decide what role to play as the lines between friend and foe blur and the casualties pile high all around them. But just when all seems lost, a new ally will emerge from the unlikeliest of places – and Peter Stanchek's ragtag band of teenage psiots will add a new hero to their ranks in ***Harbinger #14*** by *Joshua Dysart & Khari Evans,* a ***Harbinger Wars*** tie-in.

A battle for the lives of Project Rising Spirit's escaped psiot children is being waged between Toyo Harada, Peter Stanchek's Renegades and the H.A.R.D. Corps – and Bloodshot stands in the center of it all in ***Bloodshot #13*** by *Duane Swierczynski & Barry Kitson,* a ***Harbinger Wars*** tie-in.

"Planet Death" behind him, Aric of Dacia returns to Earth in ***X-O Manowar #15*** by *Robert Venditti & Lee Garbett,* with his mind set on reclaiming the ancestral lands of his people. The code of a fifth century Visigoth is about to clash with the militaries of the modern world, and the only one who may be able to convince Aric to stand down is someone from his past – Gilad Anni-Padda, the Eternal Warrior.

The mysterious disappearances of history have all wound up in the hollow world called The Faraway – and now so have Archer & Armstrong and their arch-nemesis! Can the Valiant Universe's greatest conspiracy-busters find their way out before they're trapped forever? That question will be answered in ***Archer & Armstrong #11*** by *Fred Van Lente & Pere Perez.*

Valiant's collected edition for July is ***Archer & Armstrong Volume 2: Wrath of the Eternal Warrior TP,*** collecting ***Archer & Armstrong #s 5-9.***



We've posted a brief survey at www.csnsider.com and we'd love to have your responses included! The entire survey should take three to five minutes to complete, and your participation will help us and the comics publishers better know their readership. All responses are anonymous, so your privacy is protected; we'd appreciate your helping us plan *CSN*'s future!

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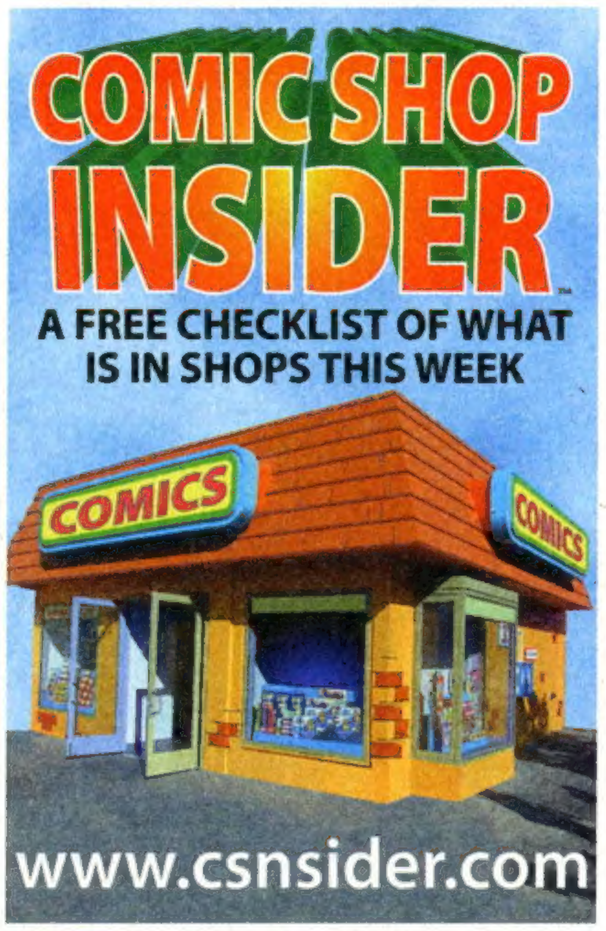

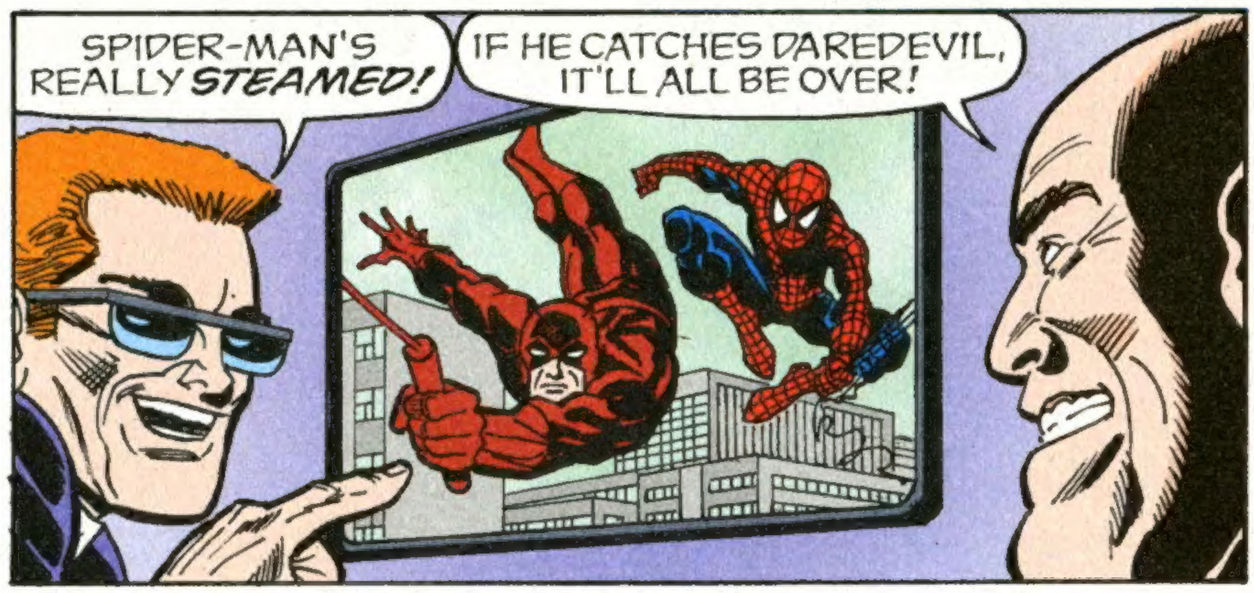
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IF HE CATCHES DAREDEVIL, IT'LL ALL BE OVER!
ORDER MY MEN TO CLOSE IN--
-SO THEY CAN ELIMINATE THE VICTOR!
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